A Snapshot of Endometrial Cancer

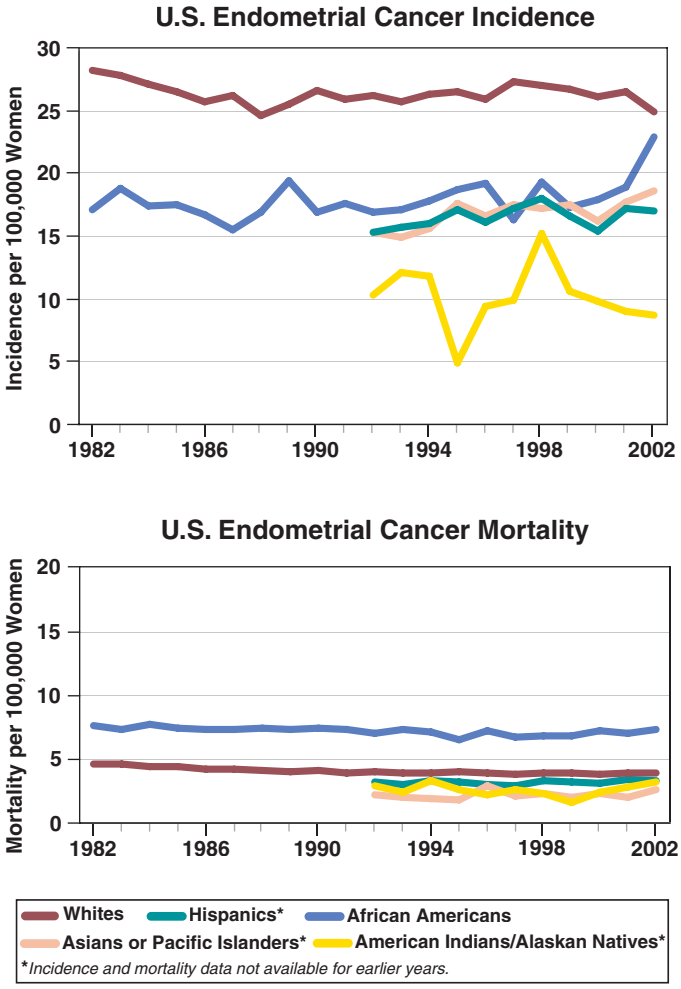
Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

Endometrial cancer (corpus and not otherwise specified uterine cancer) is both the most common type of uterine cancer and the most common cancer of the female reproductive system, accounting for approximately 6 percent of all women's cancers. While the mortality rate has declined over the past 20 years among White women, it has remained stable among other racial and ethnic groups. Although the incidence rate of endometrial cancer is lower for African American women than Whites, the mortality rate is nearly twofold higher in this group.

It is estimated that approximately $1.8 billion* is spent in the United States each year on treatment of endometrial cancer.

*In 2004 dollars, as reported in Brown ML, Riley GF, Schussler N, and Etzioni RD. Estimating health care costs related to cancer treatment from SEER-Medicare data. *Medical Care* 2002 Aug; 40 (8 Suppl): IV-104-17.

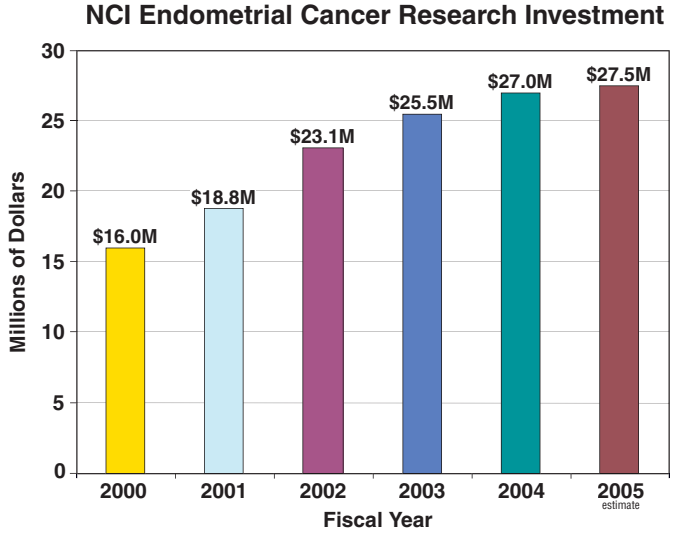
Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at: http://seer.cancer.gov/



Trends in NCI Funding for Endometrial Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment in endometrial cancer research has increased from $16.0 million in fiscal year 2000 to an estimated $27.5 million in fiscal year 2005.

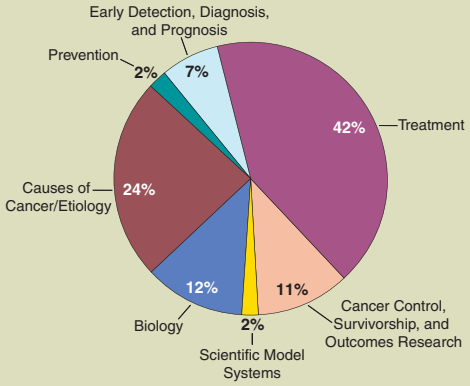
Source: NCI Financial Management Branch
http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/fmb



Examples of NCI Research Initiatives Relevant to Endometrial Cancer

- Two gynecologic cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** focus on treatment and prevention of gynecologic cancers including the development of risk and predictive biomarkers for endometrial cancer. http://spores.nci.nih.gov/current/gyn/gyn.html
- NCI's new **Integrative Cancer Biology Program** combines experimental and computational approaches for developing reliably predictive computational models of various cancer processes. One project focuses on the use of high-end information for improved prognosis, intervention, and treatment of human female cancers. http://dcb.nci.nih.gov/branchdetail.cfm?branch=1
- The **Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup (GCIG)**, an organization of international cooperative groups for clinical trials in gynecologic cancers, is identifying treatments for endometrial cancer. http://ctep.cancer.gov/resources/gcig/index.html
- **Clinical Trials** are actively recruiting endometrial cancer patients to test new treatments and treatment combinations. http://www.cancer.gov/search/clinical_trials
- Through the **Case Control Study in Poland** and the **Breast Cancer Detection Demonstration Project Follow-Up Study**, NCI investigators are conducting epidemiologic research to identify possible factors that influence endometrial cancer risk, such as family history of breast cancer, exogenous hormones, physical activity, body mass index, smoking, and alcohol use. http://dceg.cancer.gov/breast-cancer.html
- The intramural **Gynecologic Malignancies Faculty** is a group of NCI scientists who work together to develop better methods for the advancement of gynecologic cancer research in the areas of molecular etiology, epidemiology, prevention, cell biology, and treatment. http://ccr.cancer.gov/faculties/faculty.asp?facid=132
- The **Endometrial Cancer Home Page** directs visitors to up-to-date information on endometrial cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. http://www.cancer.gov/endometrial

NCI Endometrial Cancer Research Portfolio



Percentage of Total Dollars by Scientific Area
Fiscal Year 2004

* Data on training grants are not included in this figure. A description of the relevant research projects can be found at the NCI Cancer Research Portfolio website at http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov.

Selected Opportunities for Advancement of Endometrial Cancer Research

- Characterize the molecular and cellular pathways in endometrial cancer cells and their microenvironment, with emphasis on the effects of the hormonal and immune systems on cancer development. Use this knowledge to develop strategies for prevention, early detection, prognosis, and treatment.
- Develop molecular classifications of endometrial cancer subtypes to facilitate disease prognosis, and help in the design of individualized treatment strategies.
- Develop relevant, validated animal models for endometrial cancer.
- Establish a shared specimen resource to provide timely access to high-quality samples of human tissue and body fluids. This will enable the research community to exploit emerging genomics, proteomics, and informatics technology to identify gynecologic cancers early in the disease process and to discover new targets for their prevention and treatment.